



# Land Trust Alliance - Updates

**Jen Plowden**

New England Program Manager

Land Trust Alliance

# Appraiser Program Updates

## We're working to increase the pool of qualified appraisers!

- Alliance taking a blended approach of education, awareness building, and networking to increase the number of appraisers working in conservation.
- Partnership with the Appraisal Institute's MA-RI-ME Chapter.
- Hosted four-day Conservation Easement Valuation course and two two-day Yellow Book courses.
- Cumulatively enrolled 74 appraisers – Thank you for helping get the word out!



# Appraiser Program Updates

**Thanks to everyone who participated in a networking event in 2023**

- Thanks to all who participated in networking events!
- Chris LaPointe (Greenbelt)
- Meredith Houghton (Sudbury Valley Trustees)
- Carol Wilkinson (Mass Audubon)
- Buzz Constable (MA Land Trust Coalition)
- Christine Smith (MA Dept. of Fish and Game)
- Christine Berry (MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation)
- Ron Hall and Chris Chisholm (MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources)



# Appraiser Program Updates

## What's next?

- Sharing information with appraisers about how to get on service provider and state vendor lists
- Building a list of appraisers who have participated in these programs for distribution
- Hosting receptions in partnership with state associations
- Best practices handout and webinar
- Planning responsive programming for 2024

# NEW - Advancing Excellence Program

## An Alliance program to increase capacity and impact in Massachusetts

- Through this program, the Alliance will:
- Work in partnership with land trust community to increase its capacity and impact and ensure conserved lands remain protected in perpetuity
- Advance conservation in Massachusetts by helping land trusts identify and take the next steps towards excellence
- Foster best practices that lead to more sustainable organizations and a resilient and durable land trust community that reinforces the state's strong network
- Work closely with MLTC to deliver the program

# Advancing Excellence Program

- Program discovery and needs assessment to begin in January 2024
- Alliance and MLTC will work together to identify greatest risks and opportunities
- Discovery will inform specific capacity-building program design and strategies
- Likely will include three tiers of services:
  - Organizational fundamentals for small and volunteer-led organizations
  - Advanced risk management
  - Assessment and preparation for land trusts interested in exploring accreditation

# Advancing Excellence Program

- Service delivery will include training, mentoring and coaching, and grants
- Alliance will be hiring a New England Program Coordinator who will have an important role in delivering this program in Massachusetts
- Alliance will design a grantmaking program that will distribute \$210,000 to Massachusetts land trusts over the course of three years
- Alliance is looking to form an advisory council to provide feedback during 6-month discovery phase
- If you're interested, please email Jen Plowden ([jplowden@lta.org](mailto:jplowden@lta.org))

# Government Relations Update

## Federal policy updates included in MLTC update

- Expanded partnership with Natural Resource Conservation Service
- During the next several months, we will be hiring five new staff – one focused on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and four focused on helping land trusts with Agricultural Land Easement Program and RCPP applications.
- We will continue to keep you updated as our partnership expands.



# Upcoming webinars

- [Basic Risk Management: Tips from Terrafirma](#) – January 4
- [Convert Information to Data to Streamline Monitoring](#) – January 11
- [Federal Tax Issues: The Latest and Greatest for 2024](#) – January 30
- [Building your Technology Tools for Monitoring](#) – February 1
- [Introduction to Design Principles for Interpretive Signs](#) – February 7
- [Easement Violations](#) – March 13
- [Easement Monitoring Basics](#) – March 28
- [Drafting Conservation Easements](#) – April 2
- [GAAP Accounting for Beginners](#) – April 16

# Land Trust Careers

## Land Trust Alliance:

- [Government Relations Intern](#)
- [Western Program Coordinator](#)

10 jobs in New England currently posted on Alliance's [Job Board](#)

Submit a job [here](#)

# Thank you!

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